

## Specimen Information for Zika Virus Testing through Public Health

**All requests for testing through Public Health must be approved by calling the Section of Epidemiology (SOE). \*Suspected and confirmed Zika infections are reportable to the State — 907-269-8000\***

Public health offers and can facilitate testing for Zika Virus. Appropriate collection and labelling of specimens is crucial. Additionally, there are now commercial laboratories which offer testing; providers can coordinate directly with these companies. *Regardless of where testing occurs, all suspected cases of Zika Virus in Alaska must be reported to the Section of Epidemiology (SOE) within five (5) days at (907) 269-8000.*

### Alaska State Public Health Laboratory – PCR and IgM Testing

Time from Symptoms/Exposure	Type of Specimens	Minimum Amounts	Time to Results
<12 Weeks*  *Symptomatic individuals should be tested as soon as possible for optimal PCR results	PCR –Serum (required) paired with (optional): Whole Blood (EDTA); Urine; CSF; Amniotic Fluid  IgM Serology - Serum	1.5mL of each specimen type submitted for testing	In State: 2-5 business days CDC PRNT testing: 6-8 weeks <i>Note:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive PCR results are final</li> <li>• Positive IgM results are referred to CDC for confirmatory PRNT testing</li> <li>• Negative IgM results are final**</li> </ul>

\*\*Depending on timing of symptoms/exposure and testing results, follow-up serology testing may be appropriate.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

- All specimen types are acceptable for PCR testing up to 12 weeks post symptom onset or post-exposure for asymptomatic pregnant persons. PCR testing provides best results if specimen is collected within 2 weeks of initial symptoms.
- Do not freeze whole blood, keep cold.
- If sender cannot separate blood for serology testing, ask them to spin down serum separator tube prior to sending to the lab, where they can separate and send the serum.
- Please transfer urine, serum, amniotic fluid, or CSF to a plastic tube with screw cap measuring no more than 5 cm tall and approximately 13 mm in diameter (e.g., 1.8 mL cryotube or 2.0 mL microtube).
- All specimens should be kept cold/frozen. Samples may be placed in an insulated container with ice packs.

### SPECIMEN SHIPPING

Please ship Monday-Friday during normal business operations. The Alaska State Public Health Laboratory will forward appropriate specimens to CDC laboratory if necessary. Ship specimen and lab requisitions to:

**Alaska State Public Health Laboratory**  
5455 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
Ph: 907-334-2100

### RESULT REPORTING

ASPHL will notify the ordering provider of positive results by phone; a hard copy of all results will then be sent afterwards.

*Some commercial labs are starting to offer testing; SOE will not pay for or ship these specimens. Providers should be aware of caveats associated with these results: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00392.asp>*

**Alaska Section of Epidemiology**  
3601 C St, Suite 540  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907-269-8000

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Pages/default.aspx>